REMARKS

Claims 12-14, 16-22, 26-29 and 33-38 are pending in this application. No claim amendments are being made. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-14, 16-22, 26-29, and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chotani et al (US 2003/0203454) in view of Soma et al (US 5,494,819).

This rejection alleges at the top of page 3 of the Office Action that Chotani teaches fermented plant extract and facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium, therefore it was "deemed that they live in symbiotic relationship." However, the attached article provides evidence to the contrary that this is technically incorrect and therefore a *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness cannot logically be drawn from the cited references, among other reasons.

The attached reference, *Genetic and Biochemical Characterization of the Pathway in Pantoea citrea Leading to Pink Disease of Pineapple*, Journal of Bacteriology, Vol. 182, No. 8, Apr. 2000, p. 2230–2237, is an article about the pink disease of pineapple caused by *Pantoea citrea*. As mentioned in the discussion in the article on p.2235, col. 2:

> This study provides evidence for the presence of an oxidative pathway beginning with D-glucose and ending with 2,5-DKG in *P.critrea*. The end product, 2,5-DKG, is a highly chromogenic compound that turns intensely rusty red when heated and appears to be the primary contributor of the pink-to-red coloration associated with pink disease of pineapple.
>
> The rationale behind this work was to identify the complete pathway leading to the economically important pink disease of pineapple at the molecular level, using transposon mutagenesis and biochemical assays.